

NGA Workforce Academy, Information System Learning Network Conference Call  
August 6, 2003  
Notes

The meeting followed the agenda. Tim Smith, Pamela O'Neal and Medhi Nazeri joined the call from Missouri.

- Carl Van Horn reviewed the handout titled, "NGA Learning Network On Information Systems, Background: Goals and Strategies for a Demand-Driven Workforce System. Carl also reviewed purpose of work and prior meeting discussion.
- Carl noted: (1) Listen to employers. They don't need us to tell them what they need. Employers need to tell us, often they don't know what the skill and job needs are, can't establish past six months. (2) Need to be careful on responding to a specific employer or antidote before you know the answer. (3) Flexibility and on-going data collection readjust as facts change.
- Larry Good reviewed, "From Labor Market Information to Workforce Intelligence." How do you make things understandable? Integrate, tell a clear story. LMI data, Census, normal surveys, trade associations, etc. Look at parts that integrate. What are questions we want to understand? Know the right questions to go after. Data on skills get us to some places, other information takes us elsewhere. With key indicators, compare to other states or benchmarks, need context.

"Analyzing Skills and Qualifications in Labor Markets, Questions 1.3 and 2.1." Missouri led the discussion.

- Objectives and expected results--Referenced to the Workforce Investment System, business, education/training, and workforce. Touched upon the Workforce Supply and Demand Gap Analysis and the targeted groups (WIBs, RTEC's etc). Our purpose or objective is to provide significant data to the groups in order to assist them with making good policy and operational decisions.
- Scope of Analysis--Statewide and for the 14 regions
- Level of Analysis--Education/training level and content area. Skill sets, occupation study skills, clusters, work done by MERIC, etc. Noted the E&T committee working on the areas of content standards and performance standards, Scorecard, etc.
- Content Areas--We are working on all three areas: academic, occupational/technical and workplace. Had some discussion on Work Readiness, WorkKeys implementation in Missouri, NOCTI and DESE Skill Sets.
- Method of Analysis-- Noted using a combination of the two methods. Analysis Framework, Missouri will use sub-state frameworks and state framework. Commented on national frameworks that we are using or considering use of ONET, WorkKeys, NOCTI, NAEP and others industry skill standards.
- Analysis Framework--We will be using, sub-state, and state. On a National level we are either already working with or discussing use of: ONET, WorkKeys, NOCTI, NAEP, etc.
- Aggregating Results--Seeking Common Skill Requirements and Defining Segment Differences. Noted our Governor asked us to identify the essential and technical skill sets needed by business and industry. Target industries by region based on those driving the economy.

At the next meeting will provide examples of other assessments nationally available for more follow up on "Content Area." A number of states are doing some level of industry inquiry.

Subjects to carry forward for the next meeting:

- Framework Comparisons--ONET, WorkKeys, NOCTI, etc.
- Different approaches for gathering data

Are there any other topics you want to talk about at our next meeting, new or old? Group felt they had enough on their plate for now. Point was made by Virginia that participants in the Information System Learning Network are different than those in the NGA Academy (top-level decision-makers). Learning Network is more drill down discussion/learning whereas the academy focuses on broad policy issues.

Key topic areas are:

1. Integrating primary and secondary areas
2. Skill analysis
3. Career progressing

Next meeting, September 10, 2003. Group will start "drilling down" from other topics.

Feedback from states:

Need to have information to review for the meetings to them sooner, too short notice this time to review everything.

Martin Simon expressed concern that two states did not have representation for today's call. Other state attendees felt that participation would increase once through the summer months (lots of vacations and other activities).

Meeting adjourned at 3:28.

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